



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Marvin D. Perry  
Director

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## Rhode Island Unemployment Rate for April Holds Steady at 5.3 Percent

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5.3 percent, unchanged from the March estimate. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents in April equaled the March level of 30,300. A year ago April, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level stood at 27,300. The national unemployment rate, which climbed 0.2 of a percentage point to 6.0 percent in April, matched December's eight-year high. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the twenty-first consecutive month.

"Our unemployment rate seems to have stabilized over the past four months after peaking at 5.5 percent in December," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry. "Now that the warmer weather is here and the federal focus has shifted from the war in Iraq to tax cuts, we have reason to be optimistic about the economy in the coming months." (Continued on Page 4)

## Providence/Cranston Workforce Development Becomes Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston

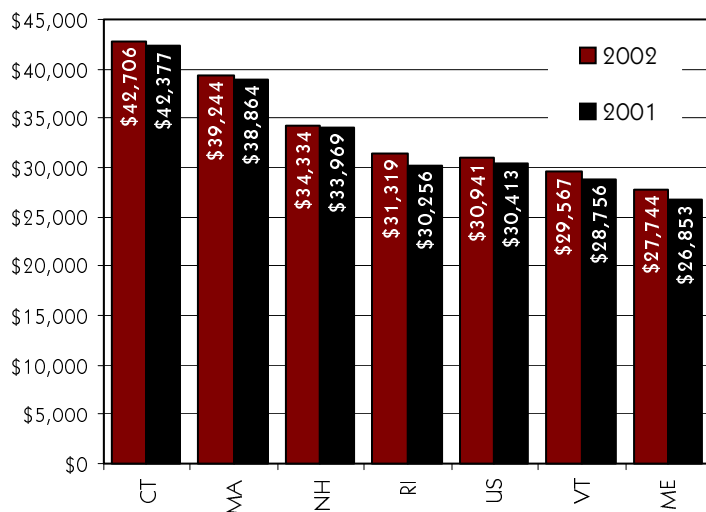
The Providence/Cranston Workforce Development agency has officially changed its name to Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. This change better reflects the mission of the federally established organization - to provide workforce development and training services in the cities of Providence and Cranston to employers, employees, job seekers, the unemployed, and the city's youth.

In addition to the name change, the agency has also adopted a tag line to underscore its mission - The Local Leader in Placement and Training. Over the past three years, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston has provided approximately \$6 million in workforce training to businesses and individual Rhode Islanders in Providence and Cranston.

Robert L. Ricci, Esq., Administrator of Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, said that the name change is the first step in a comprehensive marketing campaign, designed to make the business community aware of the agency's valuable employee training services. Among the key benefits provided to the business community are workforce training grants, which include the Employee Investment Grant, a \$10,000 grant companies can use to upgrade employee skills or train employees on new equipment, new procedures or new software. Other available grants include on-the-job training grants in which a portion of the salary paid to a new employee who undergoes on-the-job training is paid by the agency. Customized training programs are also available for businesses or industries with specialized training needs. Employers are also encouraged to take advantage of job seekers who have received training and are available through our netWORKri office.

For more information about Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and the training programs they offer, call (401) 861-0800 or visit the agency's web site at: [www.pcwddb.org](http://www.pcwddb.org).

## Per Capita Personal Income - 2002



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Apr 03	Mar 03	Apr 02	Apr 03	Mar 03	Apr 02
Civilian Labor Force	568.7	568.4	552.7	562.1	565.8	545.8
Resident Employment	538.5	538.1	525.5	534.2	533.8	521.0
Unemployment	30.3	30.3	27.3	27.9	32.0	24.9
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.3%	4.9%	5.0%	5.7%	4.6%

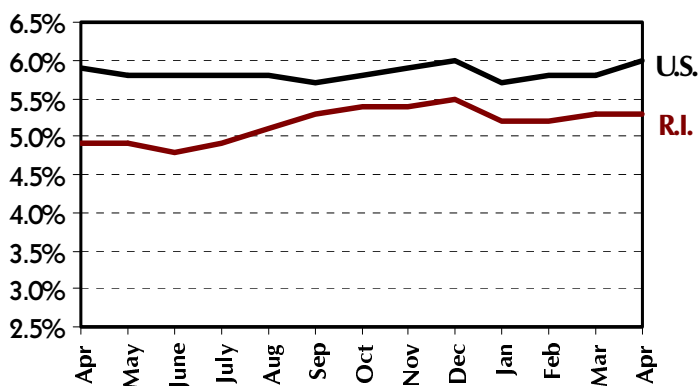
## United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Apr 03	Mar 03	Apr 02	Apr 03	Mar 03	Apr 02
Civilian Labor Force	146,473	145,793	144,763	145,925	145,801	144,158
Resident Employment	137,687	137,348	136,196	137,424	136,783	135,903
Unemployment	8,786	8,445	8,567	8,501	9,018	8,255
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	5.8%	5.9%	5.8%	6.2%	5.7%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2002 - 2003



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Apr 03	Apr 02**
Barrington	2.4	2.5
Bristol	4.7	3.8
Burrillville	5.1	4.8
Central Falls	8.5	7.8
Charlestown	5.1	5.0
Coventry	4.2	4.5
Cranston	4.9	4.3
Cumberland	4.4	4.5
East Greenwich	5.0	4.2
East Providence	5.1	4.9
Exeter	4.5	3.7
Foster	5.6	5.3
Glocester	4.5	3.3
Hopkinton	3.4	2.4
Jamestown	3.4	3.3
Johnston	5.7	5.0
Lincoln	5.0	4.2
Little Compton	4.4	3.8
Middletown	3.5	4.2
Narragansett	2.8	2.2
New Shoreham	9.6	10.2
Newport	4.6	4.2
North Kingstown	3.5	3.4
North Providence	4.9	4.0
North Smithfield	4.3	3.1
Pawtucket	5.8	5.7
Portsmouth	3.1	3.5
Providence	6.6	6.1
Richmond	2.5	3.0
Scituate	5.6	4.8
Smithfield	3.6	4.0
South Kingstown	3.8	3.1
Tiverton	5.2	5.0
Warren	4.5	4.5
Warwick	4.3	4.0
West Greenwich	5.2	5.0
West Warwick	5.6	4.6
Westerly	3.6	2.6
Woonsocket	6.4	5.8
State of R.I.	5.0	4.6

\*\* Revised

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr	Mar	Apr	% Change		Year to Date		
	2003	2003	2002	Mar 03	Apr 02	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	7,895	5,788	8,085	36.4%	-2.4%	35,193	31,250	12.6%
Number of Payments	60,586	82,515	71,033	-26.6%	-14.7%	288,062	288,221	-0.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.1	\$25.3	\$21.1	-28.4%	-13.9%	\$87.3	\$86.1	1.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,827	1,869	2,123	-2.2%	-13.9%	6,520	6,365	2.4%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$194.8	\$207.1	\$247.2	-5.9%	-21.2%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi). If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or fax (401) 462-8766.

\*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

## Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island\*

### April 2003

*Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).  
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.*

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Apr 2003	Mar 2003	Apr 2002	Mar 2003	Apr 2002
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>477.9</b>	<b>472.2</b>	<b>478.5</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>-600</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>-2,300</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.2	0.2	100	100
Construction	19.1	17.6	19.1	1,500	0
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.4	11.7	12.3	700	100
Manufacturing	60.4	60.5	62.8	-100	-2,400
Durable Goods	39.5	39.5	41.5	0	-2,000
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.6	8.9	9.0	-300	-400
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.2	5.4	-100	-300
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.9	3.0	2.9	-100	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.7	11.5	12.3	200	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	8.9	8.7	9.0	200	-100
Non-Durable Goods	20.9	21.0	21.3	-100	-400
Chemical Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.2	3.3	0	-100
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>398.1</b>	<b>393.9</b>	<b>396.4</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>1,700</b>
Wholesale Trade	16.9	16.7	16.5	200	400
Retail Trade	52.5	52.3	51.8	200	700
Grocery Stores	6.3	6.2	6.1	100	200
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
General Merchandise Stores	10.5	10.7	10.6	-200	-100
Department Stores	4.5	4.7	4.9	-200	-400
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.1	6.0	5.6	100	500
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.5	11.3	10.9	200	600
Transportation & Warehousing	10.3	10.1	9.8	200	500
Information	11.1	11.3	11.2	-200	-100
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.6	32.7	32.4	-100	200
Finance & Insurance	27.0	27.0	26.4	0	600
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.1	12.1	11.8	0	300
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	11.0	10.9	10.8	100	200
Professional & Technical Services	18.2	18.2	19.5	0	-1,300
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.7	6.7	6.4	0	300
Administrative & Waste Services	22.3	21.0	23.5	1,300	-1,200
Educational Services	20.5	20.5	20.5	0	0
Colleges & Universities	14.5	14.5	14.6	0	-100
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.1	70.0	68.6	100	1,500
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.1	20.3	19.8	-200	300
Hospitals	22.3	22.2	22.0	100	300
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.8	17.6	17.2	200	600
Social Assistance	9.9	9.9	9.6	0	300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.0	6.0	6.8	1,000	200
Accommodation & Food Services	39.4	37.5	39.8	1,900	-400
Accommodation	3.9	3.7	3.8	200	100
Food Services & Drinking Places	35.5	33.8	36.0	1,700	-500
Other Services	22.7	22.6	21.3	100	1,400
Government	66.6	67.1	67.2	-500	-600
Federal Government	10.3	10.3	10.2	0	100
State Government	18.0	18.0	18.4	0	-400
Local Government	38.3	38.8	38.6	-500	-300
Local Education	25.2	25.8	25.6	-600	-400
Local Non-Ed	13.1	13.0	13.0	100	100

\*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm).

Some subcategories are not additive.

## Providence netWORKri Occupies New Facility

After an exhaustive search and renovation, the new Providence netWORKri is ready for occupancy. The facility at One Reservoir Avenue, Providence is an attractive physical structure with the layout conceived and implemented with the best interests of job seekers and employers in mind.

netWORKri, with its six Centers throughout the state, is an exciting innovation that connects employment, education and training services into a coherent network of resources at the local, state and national level for its customers – job seekers and employers alike. Partners responsible for the delivery of the many diverse services sit under one roof, eliminating red tape and duplication of efforts. Employers are linked to a variety of qualified applicants and other business development resources. Job seekers are provided with convenient access to employment and training opportunities. The ultimate goal is to meet all of the needs of the customer by providing a common core of information and services that are standard and universal at any point.

Whether you have questions about economic assistance, attracting new and qualified workers, identifying tax credits and incentives or investigating training opportunities for your employees, this innovative concept was developed to help ***YOU!*** For more in-depth information, please call the new Providence netWORKri Center or visit our website at [www.networkri.org](http://www.networkri.org).

**netWORKri**  
**One Reservoir Avenue**  
**Providence, RI 02907**  
**(401) 222-3606**  
**Joanne Soprano**  
**Center Manager**

### Did You Know?

Did you know the Employment Bulletin can be found online at the Labor Market Information web site? The newest edition is available online before it reaches your mailbox! You can also access archived Employment Bulletins and any links in the publication can be clicked to bring you to other web sites. For example: If you are reading this issue online, you can click on the web address in the above article and it will take you to the netWORKri web site! If you would like to stop receiving the paper copy of the Employment Bulletin, please email your subscriber information to [lmi@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:lmi@dlt.state.ri.us). To view the Employment Bulletin on the web, go to:

[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/bulletin.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/bulletin.htm)

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Apr 03	Mar 03	Apr 02	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	183.8	184.2	179.8	2.2%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Rhode Island Unemployment Rate for April Holds Steady at 5.3 Percent

(Continued from Page 1)

### Rhode Island Job Highlights

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of jobs stood at 478,900 in April, unchanged from the March (revised) level, but slightly higher (+200) than last year. Within the Private sector, monthly employment gains in Professional & Business Services (+1,100), Leisure & Hospitality (+600), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+500), and Other Services (+200) offset losses in other industries, most notably Manufacturing (-600). Government employment was down 300 over the month.

Our unadjusted estimates show the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses at 477,900 in April 2003, down slightly (-600) from the 478,500 jobs reported last year. This marks the first over-the-year loss in twelve months. Large employment losses in Manufacturing (-2,400), Professional & Technical Services (-1,300) and Administrative & Waste Services (-1,200) overshadowed gains in Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,500), Other Services (+1,400) and Retail Trade (+700). Government employment decreased by 600 over the year due to declines in State Government (-400) and Local Government (-300) jobs.

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 5,700 over the month due to increases in several industries, the largest attributed to seasonal gains in Accommodation & Food Services (+1,900), Construction (+1,500), Administrative & Waste Services (+1,300) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,000). The largest decrease was reported in Government employment (-500) as the April school vacation period resulted in a temporary loss of 500 jobs at the Local level.

The \$12.84 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers in April 2003 represents an over-the-month gain of two cents per hour and a yearly gain of ten cents per hour. In April 2003, Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.6 weekly hours, down seven-tenths of an hour over the month and one-tenth of an hour over the year.